

work he did, for the values he stood for. Someone said to me yesterday: "You know, you didn't have to know Joe intimately for a long time—to know the type of person he was." And I guess that is true—there are so many like me out there who didn't know the man very well, but knew what type of man he was.

We have heard and seen in the news and in the newspaper articles, story after story, relating to us a man of goodness. Things like: he was a rare breed, a gentle soul, the people's legislator, one who always had time to assist. People talked about his hidden greatness, his humility, his wit, and his basic goodness. And I think that is why, we, who didn't know him well—felt like we knew him. Why? Because we want so desperately to know a man of such goodness. We want to look up to a man that had values, had faith in God, and had an innate drive to help others in need. Why was Joe Moakley this person? Many reasons I'm sure—but tonight I'd like to attribute it to his faith in God. He was a child of God. In fact in one of his recent interviews, he quoted scripture when speaking of his life accomplishments: "Do unto others, as you would have them do to you!"

Joe Moakley lived a life of service to others—not for his own accomplishments to be noticed, but to have others take notice of those who were in need. He "lived" the words of our Lord—do unto others, as you would have them do to you!" And Joe was a believer in the Lord's goodness in this world, and that one person could make a difference. Joe was a child of God.

That is why we come tonight to Saint Brigid's. Because it was here that Joe nourished his faith as a child of God. It is here that we come to listen to our Lord's consoling words to Joe, as he said to Martha in tonight's gospel: "Don't worry—he will live again!" If you believe, if you have faith in God—you will live again.

Many were amazed at Joe's peacefulness and grace these last months since his announcement of his illness. That grace and peace that he possessed came from his belief that he would have a share in eternal life. That life does not end, that life merely changes. And that is what gives us hope tonight as we pray for someone loved by those who knew him well, and not so well—that for Joe Moakley, the child of God, the believer

in Jesus Christ—for him—life has not ended, it is merely changed. His new life with God has just begun. And his life with you has not ended either—it has merely changed—for the good memories that you keep of Joe, all the good that this "good man" has done—will live on, as Joe's spirit continues to live in our hearts.

Joe does not sit tonight in the 10th pew from the back, where he usually sat, unnoticed—kneeling, praying, or singing the songs. He is here in front of us all—telling us as we look back on his life—how we might follow our Lord's command "to do unto others as you would have them do unto you"

REMARKS AT CONGRESSMAN MOAKLEY'S
FUNERAL MASS

(By Cardinal Bernard Law)

After I had the privilege of anointing Joe, after the public announcement of the course of his illness, we spoke about the funeral, and I asked him to do me a favor. I said, Joe I've got a problem as an Archbishop. Funerals have gotten out of hand, and the focus has not always been where it should be. Will you help me get it back? And I'm so grateful to him for that. I know of no public servant's passing that has been more beautifully and appropriately marked than has his death.

If I may presume, Tom and Bob, to speak a word of gratitude on your behalf, that of your entire family, and that of Joe's staff, which was much more than staff, it was extended family, and that gratitude goes for all who have in these days and during these past several months shown their respect for and their love of your dear brother, your uncle and your friend. The extraordinary outpouring of affection from this Commonwealth, this nation and indeed beyond is a most fitting tribute to the public service which he rendered. The presence of President Bush, former President Clinton, former Vice President Gore, the Congressional delegation, Governor Swift, Mayor Menino and so many other public servants attests to the esteem in which all of us hold Joe.

The two vigil services, first here in Saint Brigid's and then at the State House, and this Mass I know have brought you strength and consolation. With you I wish to acknowledge Father J. Donald Monan, S.J., Senator Edward Kennedy, and Congressman James

McGovern, who is so much more than a Congressional colleague, for their parts in those vigil services. Your remarks were moving indeed and I thank you for that.

To Father Robert Casey, Joe's pastor here at Saint Brigid's, for all he has done, along with the musicians, the Vigil Services, the two magnificent musical groups here today, the youngsters who sang just before Mass, the servers, including two of Joe's grandnieces, and all the participants who have enhanced our worship, Joe's family and all of us are most grateful to you. We are in Monsignor Thomas McDonnell's debt for his moving homily—and to President William Bulger for the magnificent way in which he evoked Joe's memory, paid tribute to him, and allowed us a very well needed laugh.

I thank in your name, Tom and Bob, Metropolitan Methodios of the Greek Orthodox Church, the ecumenical as well as the inter-religious representatives, my brother Catholic bishops and priests, the Religious women and men who are with us and all who are joined with us in prayer both here in the church, in the surrounding buildings, and by means of television.

What a gift it is to die as Joe did—believing that Jesus conquered both sin and death in his death upon the cross—and that in His resurrection and His ascension we have a sure hope of everlasting life if our lives are rooted in His.

The great temptation which each one of us faces is to separate faith from life. The great temptation is to lock our faith in a narrow ghetto in a part of our lives. Joe's record of public service shows that he allowed faith to inspire and to penetrate his public service. As Congressman McGovern said in his remarks here in the Church and as Billy Bulger commented, this pulpit was a source of inspiration and vision for Joe. His faith was nourished in this Church and the surrounding parishes and in his family, where he first learned to reach out a helping hand, in that beautiful phrase, to those upstairs, downstairs and across the back fence.

He enjoyed an uncommon freedom as a politician, because he placed no limits on faith's demands. Jesus said, you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Please stand and join me now in the prayers of final commendation.